

Introduction:

- If God is in control, and He already knows what will happen, why do I need to pray?
 - I live what God has planned.
 - I cant change what God has ordained.
 - This view causes us to be powerless in the earth. It is an errant thought.
- Why is the world in such a mess?
 - Some would say, that God wills it to be.
 - Some would say, that this is now the devils domain.
 - This view gives to much power to the devil and his domain. It is an errant thought.
- I propose that the world is a mess because we allow it.
- I propose that the world will not change until we have decided to change it through prayer and action.
- Our prayers make a difference!

I. God Works Through People

- A. In 1 Kings 18 we find the story of God needing a person to accomplish His will and usher in righteous change into the earth. It is the story of Elijah, who shut up the rain and 3.5 years later released the rain.
1. Elijah stopped the rain. And Elijah brought the rain.
 2. In verse 1 of chapter 18 God says to Elijah, "Go show yourself to the king and I will cause it to rain upon the land."
 3. You know the story and at its end Elijah prays seven times. Why seven times? And finally the rain comes.
 4. Here are some questions for us:
 - a) Whose idea was it to send the rain?
 - b) Whose will was it to send the rain?
 - c) Who initiated this activity? The answer to these three questions is God!
 - d) So if it is God's idea was it coincidental that it rained while Elijah was praying?
 - e) So, if it is God's will, Gods idea and Gods timing why does He need Elijah? And why does he have to pray seven times?
 5. James gives us the answer: *"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit."* (James 5:17-18, NKJV) Yes, God needed Elijah to pray...but "WHY?" He worked through the fervent prayer of a righteous man. The only logical answer to Why God needed Elijah to pray was that He works through people.
- B. Why Does God Work Through People
1. "Prayer is the result of God's established authority structure between heaven and earth, as well as a product of His faithfulness to His Word." Myles Monroe; Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer.
 - a) God arranged this authority structure for the purpose of mans assignment in the earth.

- b) The assignment given to man has not changed and will climax at the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- 2. *"Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.'"* (Genesis 1:26, NLT) NKJV says, "let them rule" Note to self: It does not say, "Let us rule"
 - a) These are critical words to understand because they define the relationship that God desired, intended and implemented in the beginning.
 - b) God wanted man to dominate the earth. This was the mandate given to mankind. "Let them" also became the parameters within which He would work. With these words He set the boundaries with which He could legally work and intervene in the earth realm.
 - c) Four truths we can glean from the words, "Let them"
 - (1) God's purpose is more important than our plans. (Prov 19:21-22; Is 46:10-11; Is 55:11-12; Eph 1:11; Heb 6:17; Mt 5:18-19)
 - (2) God has placed His Word above even Himself. (Ps 119:89-90; Ps 138:2-3)
 - (3) God will never violate or break His word.
 - (4) God's holiness is the foundation of His integrity and faithfulness.
- C. Therefore Prayer Is:
 - 1. Man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in the earth's affairs.
 - 2. Man giving heaven earthly license to influence earth.
 - 3. Man giving license to celestial interference.
 - 4. Man exercising his legal authority on earth to invoke heaven's influence on the planet.
 - 5. God therefore, works through people.

II. God Works By His Spirit (Who lives in us.)

- A. We have established in these messages that the Holy Spirit is the one who initiates travail/birthing prayer.
 - 1. He is involved in the prayer
 - 2. He is involved in the conviction and salvation of the lost.
 - 3. He is involved in the maturing of the saints
 - 4. He can move so strongly as to induce tears, crying, groans and fervency.
 - 5. He is involved in the producing of miracles. Acts 1:8; 1 Kings 18 rain; Jesus at Lazarus tomb.
- B. We do not birth anything spiritually, this is the Holy Spirit's work.
 - 1. He is the power source.
 - 2. IE. Mary when the Holy Spirit came upon her she conceived.
 - 3. When the Holy Spirit leads in us in prayer, it is God's idea, God's plan, God's will.
 - 4. The point is that God is now working in us to release the power of heaven by stepping into our roll of *"let them rule"*.

III. Fill the Bowls!

- A. *"And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold **bowls** filled with incense, which **are the prayers of God's people**."* (Revelation 5:8, NLT)
1. Note: it says bowls. We are not told what kind, how many, what for. Just that there are bowls that are being filled in heaven with prayers of the Saints.
 2. Elijah's activity.
 - a) 1 Kings 18:1 God to Ahab, "I will send rain". It was God initiated, God planned, God willed, God timed.
 - b) Yet Elijah had to pray 7 times before they even saw a cloud.
 - (1) This was not casual prayer. He was in a birthing posture.
 - (2) He had to pray long enough, focused enough, persevering enough that power would be released from on High.
 - (3) Same principle in Dan. *"Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia."* (Daniel 10:12-13, NLT)
 - (4) Daniels prayers were releasing things in the Spirit realm that would constitute changes being made in the earth.
- B. It appears that according to Rev. 5:8 that when the prayer bowl is filled God adds fire to earths prayer activity! That is what He longs for. Therefore Luke 18:1 Pray and do not lost heart.
1. Acts 16 Paul and Silas praising God, the bowl is filled and pow! The power of God hits the jail.
 2. A city is now being taken for God!
- C. When God sees the bowls of heaven being filled with the prayer of the Saints, what He sees in front of Him is *"Let them Rule"* man is now doing what God commissioned him to do. We are working in unison with the structure that God put in place for the heavenly domination of the world by God!